Kingston Guardian

Thursday
July 9
2015

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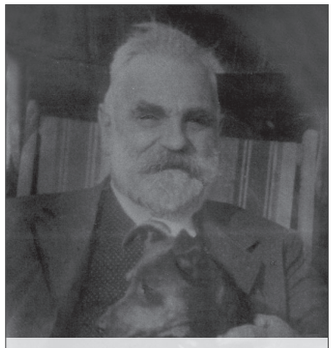

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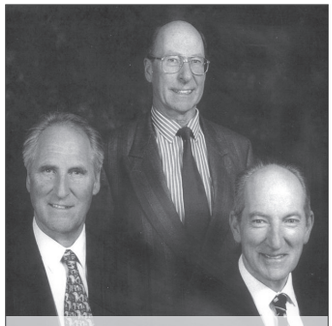

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BITTER END?

Changes: The Cap in Hand has been sold Deadlinepix KT92273

Future uncertain as popular boozer Cap in Hand is sold off

REPORTER
JON SHARMAN
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A popular pub has been bought by an Isle of Man-registered company linked to a string of pub closures across London.

The Cap in Hand pub, off the Ace of Spades roundabout, is due to close on August 28.

The pub, formerly the Southborough Arms and the Academy, was bought by JD Wetherspoon in 1998.

Wetherspoon spokesman Eddie Gershon said: "We can confirm that the Cap in Hand has been sold, with the deal completing on September 4.

"The pub has been sold to Mendoza Ltd. The Cap in Hand will remain open until a week before the completion date.

"All staff working at the pub will be relocated to nearby Wetherspoon pubs.

"We appreciate that the pub customers will be disappointed, however Wetherspoon has made a commercial decision to sell the pub.

"We would like to thank them for their loyal custom since the pub opened in 1998."

Former regular Sarah Skelton, of Stafford, said: "When my now husband first came to live with me in Verona Drive, we spent many a happy hour in there. It was our local.

"We have lived in Stafford since 2008 but we still go back there when we visit Kingston. We'll miss it enormously."

Mendoza has overseen a number of pub closures across the capital in recent years, including Two8Six in Lewisham and the Peacock in Battersea.

Dennis Murphy, landlord of the Sovereign in Camden, was forced to bow out in June 2013 after Mendoza raised his rent from £22,700 to £50,000, having bought the pub the previous summer, according to the Irish Post.

The Sovereign is still operating as a pub. Mendoza also bought the Bacchus in Hoxton, which is still open under new management, the Evening Standard reported in February.

The company, incorporated in 2009, has also bought the Duke of Wellington in Spitalfields.

Campaigners there believe the company has "no intention" of maintaining it as a pub after redevelopment, the Standard reported.

Twenty First Architecture Ltd, which is working with Mendoza on the Duke of Wellington scheme, is understood to be handling the Cap in Hand project. Workers there could not be reached for a comment.

The Kingston Guardian has attempted to contact Mendoza through its corporate agent, Andco Corporate Services, also registered in the Isle of Man.

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All set for Grove byelection

REPORTER
RACHAEL BURFORD
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Some familiar faces are running for Kingston Council in this month's Grove ward byelection.

Just two months after Kingston town centre residents last went to the polls, they will be asked to select another new representative on Thursday, July 16.

The vote has been called following the sudden death of Councillor Chrissie Hitchcock, who represented the ward on behalf of the Liberal Democrats for 25 years.

This time around, Jon Tolley, the skateboarding owner of Banquet Records, is standing for the Lib Dems after previously running as an independent candidate in May.

He explained his decision in a YouTube video, saying he had always voted for the Lib Dems in elections.

He said: "In the last byelection I stood as an independent because I thought the views that I had weren't being represented and I wanted to shout as loud as I could so that people heard our voices.

"In that whole campaign, I found it quite interesting that there were a lot of people who weren't involved in politics who wanted me or an independent to speak for them.

"I found that views from a few Conservatives were quite dismissive of me and I received no support, apart from the Lib Dems. They were the ones reaching out. They were on side from the beginning."

Clare Keogh, who ran as the Green Party candidate in the general election, has put herself forward for the Grove council seat.

An accomplished Irish dancer, Miss Keogh secured 2,322 votes for the Kingston and Surbiton parliamentary seat and performed an Irish jig at 2.30am during the count.

Kingston Labour chairman Laurie South, himself a keen morris dancer, is the party's candidate once again, having also stood two months ago.

He said: "I am involved in this community. I have lived here in Grove ward for more than 20 years and this is where I want to be.

"But I want to see a developing Kingston that is fairer and offers help, hope and a future for everyone here. Kingston will change. It must. But it must offer homes, education, job opportunities and amenities for all who live here – no matter what your age."

John Anderson will again be running for UKIP.

He said: "The Tories must be stopped from allowing over-development in Kingston.

"But the Lib Dems are being hypocritical on this issue – there are plenty of examples of over-development that occurred when they ran the council.

"Both the Lib Dems and the Tories have failed to secure enough affordable housing in the large developments they have permitted.

"They have let the planning staff be bamboozled by the financial viability assessments devised by property developers, and under the Lib Dems this made the problems of social housing in the borough extremely serious."

The newcomer is Conservative candidate Jenny Lewington, from Chessington, who has worked as a personal assistant at Tolworth Girls' School for the past 32 years.

● For more information about the byelection, visit **kingston.gov.uk.**

In the running: Jon Tolley (Lib Dem), Clare Keogh (Green), Laurie South (Labour), John Anderson (UKIP) and Jenny Lewington (Conservative)

Runway 'will bring pollution to borough'

Kingston's air quality would suffer if Heathrow built a third runway, council leader Kevin Davis has warned.

Councillor Davis was responding to the long-awaited publication of the Airports Commission report, which this week recommended expansion at Heathrow.

Prime Minister David Cameron has said the Government would make a decision on airport expansion by the end of the year.

Coun Davis said: "Kingston has some issues with air pollution already, especially in north Kingston. It is definitely something I am very worried about.

"The trouble with aviation pollution especially is that it sinks and that could be a real problem for Kingston."

Coun Davis said Gatwick expansion would be a far better option for Kingston.

He said: "Gatwick expansion would allow me to argue for extra funds to improve infrastructure in and around the borough.

"We could improve roads like the A243 through Hook because they would become more widely used after a Gatwick expansion."

But Matt Gorman, Heathrow's director of environment and sustainability, said the airport could provide a third runway and still hit air quality targets.

Mr Gorman said: "We set out a commitment to create a third runway without any additional airport-related traffic on the roads.

"There will be rail links to the north, south and east of the airport as well as improved bus and road connections.

"We think the plans are credible and we can have a third runway at Heathrow without increasing traffic locally."

The Government withdrew support for a third runway previously and the director of environment believes the plans have been brushed up enough to gain public support.

He said: "The key point is that we have taken a new approach to the development – we went back to the drawing board when the Government pulled support for runway three.

"We gave ourselves air quality as well as noise and pollution targets and through that we have built the support that we have."

Richmond Park and North Kingston MP Zac Goldsmith, a long-standing opponent of Heathrow expansion, said commission chairman Sir Howard Davies had taken "a telegram approach in a broadband age".

Mr Goldsmith said: "Against all the available evidence, he is effectively proposing that we spend vast sums of taxpayer money subsidising the creation of a huge foreign-owned monopoly.

"It is hugely disappointing that he has ignored the key evidence he received in the course of his work. On every level, Heathrow expansion is the wrong answer.

"Sir Howard has addressed an aviation model that is becoming obsolete.

"Transfer traffic across Europe has been declining for years because of technology changes and the rise of low cost carriers, while point-to-point trips are increasing. His is the telegram approach in a broadband age."

Third runway proposal: Heathrow

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Teen hurt: Air ambulance

Moped crash

A 15-year-old boy is in hospital with serious injuries after ploughing his moped into a metal pole outside a playground.

London's Air Ambulance was called to the crash site in Knollmead, near the Sunray estate, with police cordoning off the area so the helicopter could land.

The teenager was taken to a central London hospital with a suspected broken leg and back and neck injuries after the collision, on Saturday afternoon.

The moped the boy was riding is said to have ended up in pieces scattered all the way down to the Hogsmill River.

People also reported seeing a piece of the bike's visor wedged in the railings of a bridge over the river.

A police spokesman said: "We were called to an accident on July 4 at 5.45pm. A 15-year-old had suffered serious injuries but is expected to make a full recovery.

"Enquiries continue."

Slashed with knife in pub toilet

CHIEF REPORTER
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A man was left with head and arm injuries after being attacked and slashed with a knife inside a pub toilet.

The 35-year-old man was assaulted in Woody's in Ram Passage, Kingston, by three other men just after midnight on Saturday, June 20.

The group had been allegedly involved in an argument before the victim was followed into the toilet and hit a number of times.

His forearm was also cut with a knife by one of the assailants.

Paramedics arrived and took the injured man to a south London hospital but he was later discharged.

The attackers are believed to have run off towards High Street and got away by car. A knife was later recovered by police.

A spokesman for Woody's said: "Two weeks ago there was an incident where a man was followed into the toilets at Woody's.

"The staff reacted immediately and diffused the situation, but in the struggle the man in question was cut by a knife.

"I would like to take the opportunity to praise the staff on their quick thinking and professional response in extremely unusual circumstances – the only time in Woody's seven year history that the police have been called.

"The police were very impressed by how the matter was dealt with and we continue to help them with their inquiries."

Attack: Woody's in Ram Passage, Kingston

Deadlinepix KT92304

Gary Cormack, 27, from Bolingbroke Grove, Wandsworth, has been charged with one count of actual bodily harm and has been bailed to appear at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on July 21.

Police are also searching for a man described as of Middle Eastern appearance wearing a long-sleeved light blue jumper, dark jeans and trainers.

No description is currently available for the alleged third attacker.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the assault.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 quoting ref 0405750/15 or call Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Police issue appeal over restaurant 'sex assault'

Alleged assault: Prithi restaurant; Mohammed Sala Huddin Ahmed/ Moyen Qureshi, inset

An appeal to trace a waiter who allegedly assaulted a woman in a Surbiton Indian restaurant has been reissued by police.

The woman was visiting Prithi restaurant in Ewell Road to collect a takeaway on Saturday, November 9, 2013, at about 10.30pm.

As she left the restaurant the suspect, who was working as a waiter, allegedly sexually assaulted her.

Police want to talk to a 29-year-old man, *pictured*, who may be known as either Mohammed Sala Huddin Ahmed or Moyen Qureshi.

He is Bangladeshi, about 5ft 3in with short dark hair.

Detective Constable Iain Millar, of Kingston CID, said: "Although we issued an appeal at the beginning of this year we still have not located the suspect.

"He has worked in numerous restaurants and has links not only to London but Thames Valley and the West Midlands. If anyone has seen the suspect or has any information about his whereabouts please contact police."

If you have any information contact Kingston CID on 020 8721 5842 or call 101.

If you wish to remain anonymous call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Charities to compete for cash

REPORTER
JON SHARMAN
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Concern: John Trend from Oxygen Deadlinepix KT83555

Boss: Hilary Garner KT55556

Charities will compete against each other to provide voluntary services under a new commissioning system.

Councillors have approved the shift of two-thirds of Kingston Council's volunteer grants budget – £1m – to its commissioning budget.

The overall cash available – about £1.5m – will remain the same.

Previously organisations applied to the council for grant money to carry out charitable projects.

Hilary Garner, chief executive of Kingston Voluntary Action, said: "There's been no evidence that the corporate grants model is broken.

"There's been no rationale or evidence that contracting will achieve better outcomes."

Voluntary organisations may have to pay VAT on their commissioned funding, he said, whereas this was not the case with grants.

John Trend, director of Oxygen, said the move would pit volunteer groups against each other and force them to spend money on competition, rather than front-line services, without a guarantee of success.

He added: "It's fundamentally flawed. A lot of the efforts we've put into working together, to collaborating, to trying to minimise duplication and things like that, all of that is potentially undermined by a commissioning process."

In a press release, Kingston Council said that the majority of respondents supported the proposals "to some extent" and claimed its plans were a "more sustainable way of supporting the vital and excellent work of the borough's voluntary and community sector."

Councillor Julie Pickering, lead member for voluntary services, said the change was designed to wring maximum value for money from deals in order to meet an "unprecedented" financial challenge.

She said: "What has happened over the years is that we have developed another part of the council that doesn't have the acute commissioners involved at the level that they should be.

"It's about forging that relationship. You need to get the grants closer to where the money is. You can start to coproduce much more effectively. You can commission grants."

She added: "I would like to see the council double the amount of work it commissions from the voluntary and community sector by 2020."

Coun Rachel Reid, who opposed the change, said: "We could potentially lose some of our key teams in the voluntary sector if they are unsuccessful in bidding.

"I fear that pushing through with this process will risk us alienating those we are seeking to support, the council and our residents."

The changes were approved after several weeks of consultation with sector workers.

In its report, consultancy specialists QA said: "Some participants felt that commissioning approaches had the potential to address service duplication and fragmentation.

"Other opportunities noted included the potential for long-term planning and more sustainability for organisations with longer contracts.

"However, most participants found it difficult to identify the potential benefits of commissioning for their organisations with a feeling that this was something that larger organisations would derive most benefit from.

"The most significant concern expressed by participants was the risk that their organisation would not receive funding under the proposed system and would be at risk of closure as they were squeezed out by larger charities."

Some groups did not have much experience of commissioning processes, the report said. Representatives of larger organisations were more likely to see the changes as an opportunity.

Possible benefits included consortium bidding and improved accountability, respondents felt.

QA's report added: "A key issue of concern appears to be the perceived lack of, or communication of, the rationale behind the proposals.

"The majority of participants were very concerned about the proposed changes and the potential impact on their organisations.

"There was also discussion within the groups around the recent change in council leadership and it was apparent that this was a period of uncertainty and change for many participants."

There was also a perception that "the decision had already been made", QA found.

ASSAULT REHAB: A man has been ordered to undergo a 40-day rehabilitation programme after he admitted beating a woman. Shehryar Ahmed, 31, of Excelsior Close, Kingston, was also ordered to pay £295 fees by Wimbledon magistrates last Wednesday.

CANNABIS MAN: A man who twice breached a restraining order and was caught with cannabis has been conditionally discharged for a year. Anthony Carmody, 22, of Malden Way, New Malden, was also fined £25 and must pay £285 in fees.

OVER THE LIMIT: A drink-driver caught twice over the limit has been fined £350 and banned from the road for 20 months. Sadadcharam Joypooranachandarn, 48, of Ruxley Lane, Epsom, was caught in his Mercedes in Worcester Park last August. He was found guilty at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court last Thursday and must pay £185 fees.

GUILTY PLEA: A man who harassed two other people last autumn has been conditionally discharged for a year. Declan Ingram, of Fleetwood Square, Kingston, changed his plea to guilty at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court last Thursday. He must also pay £115 in fees.

POO FINES: Dog owners who do not clean up after their pets now face on-the-spot fines up to £100. As part of Kingston Council's crackdown on litter, powers to penalise dog owners came into force on Wednesday. Enforcement officers will patrol streets, open spaces and housing estates in Kingston and Surbiton as part of the pilot scheme, which runs until December. The fines can be reduced if paid within 10 days.

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This week marked 10 years since the 7/7 bombings. JON SHARMAN looks back at the lives of some of the victims with links to Kingston.

Lives cruelly lost

Killed on 7/7: Clockwise from top, Philip Russell, Emily Jenkins, Laura Webb and Ojara Ikeagwu; Survivor Gill Hicks, below

Ten years after he died in the 7/7 London bombings, the family of Kingston University student Philip Russell has spoken about the legacy of a scholarship created in his name.

Mr Russell, a finance manager, was killed by the bomb that ripped apart the number 30 bus in Tavistock Square in the 2005 terrorist attacks, just days before he was due to celebrate his 29th birthday.

The Philip Russell Travel Scholarship has sent 21 Kingston students to take part in projects around the world, including in Nepal, South Africa and Haiti.

Dad Grahame Russell said this week: "It was very hard in the beginning but now we look forward to coming up to the university to meet the scholarship recipients.

"Philip wasn't able to complete his life, so it seems fitting that we are now able to give opportunities to others to lead lives they otherwise wouldn't be able to.

"Each year the students seem to be more and more adventurous and we have seen them come back as better and more worldly wise people. This, in return, helps us to keep Philip's memory alive."

Scholarship projects have included giving physiotherapy to disabled orphans, building fresh water tanks, and shark conservation.

Three others with links to the borough died in the attacks, which killed 52 and injured more than 700.

They were former Surbiton High School pupil Emily Jenkins, 24, Laura Webb, 29, and Ojara Ikeagwu, 55.

Miss Jenkins, who dreamed of becoming a midwife, was described by her mother Sarah as "extremely sociable and popular" and "the only grandchild to get away with teasing my austere mother and father".

The family, who lived in Kew at the time, said in a statement after her death: "She had a love of life and a great ability to bring out the best in people. Emily will be remembered for her enthusiasm and her deep passion for her family and friends."

Miss Webb had been planning her wedding when she was killed.

Her mother, Hazel, told the inquest into her death: "Laura was always happy and laughing. She was kind and caring, and could always see the best in people."

Miss Webb grew up in Kingston Vale and attended Coombe Girls' School.

Mrs Ikeagwu, a social worker from Hounslow who completed an MA at Kingston University in 2000 and was killed by the Russell Square bomb.

At the time, head of social work school Hilary Tompsett said: "Her lively and colourful personality will be long remembered as well as her determination to finish her studies and to gain a master's degree on top of her professional qualifications as a social worker. She was so proud of her achievement, coming from a family of respected doctors and graduates, and it was clear they were proud of her too."

A survivor of the attacks, Gill Hicks, was given an honorary degree by Kingston University in 2013. Ms Hicks, 46, lost both legs when Germaine Lindsay detonated his bomb at Russell Square. She founded a peace charity two years later and was awarded an MBE in 2008.

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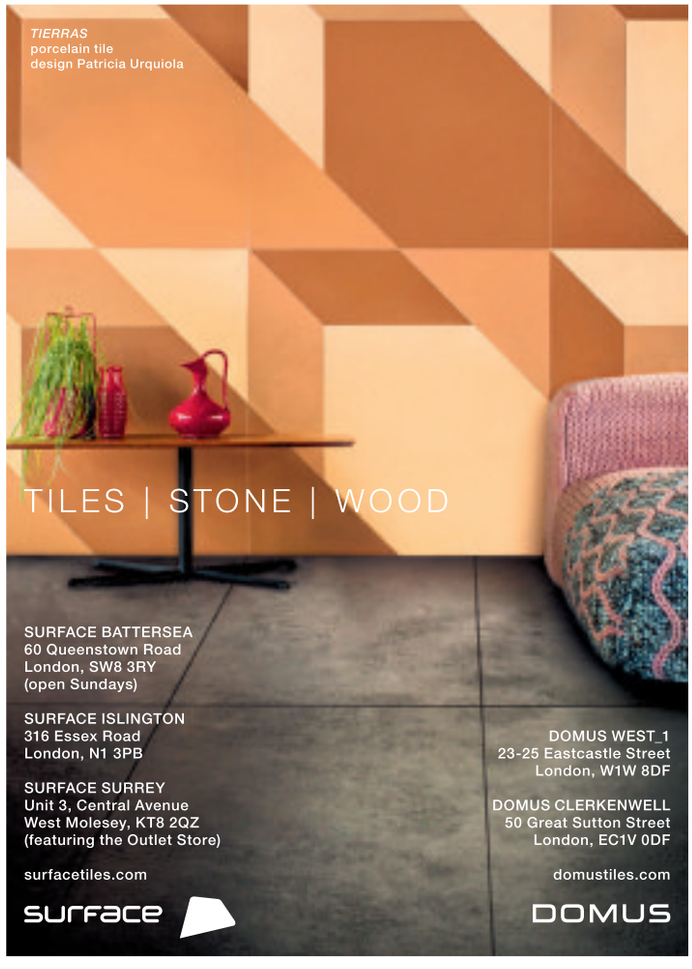

FIGHT THE TOWER? New development would become Kingston's tallest building

Second 19-storey block on cards

CHIEF REPORTER
NAZIA DEWJI
ndewji@
london.newsquest.co.uk

Opponents of high rise buildings in Kingston may have another battle to fight, after plans for a second 19-storey tower block were announced for the town centre.

Having temporarily seen off proposals for a high rise at the old post office site, members of campaign group Kingston Residents' Alliance (KRA) are now gearing up to oppose plans for 400 homes in towers of up to eight, 10 and 19 storeys as part of Eden Walk shopping centre's regeneration plans.

At 63.1m high, the development would become Kingston's tallest building, dwarfing the Kingston Riverside complex off Canbury Gardens, which stands at 55.9m.

Mediha Boran, from the KRA, said: "I am pessimistic, but we have to fight our corner.

"Developers are hitting the area where it says more than nine storeys are allowed. We will have another fight on our hands."

But the Eden Walk General Partnership, a joint venture between British Land and Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), said of its plans: "We have designed the scheme to reduce in height in the most sensitive areas around Union Street where the development is closest to the Ancient Market."

Developer St George recently withdrew its plans to build a 19-storey tower block at the old post office site a day before a decision was due to be made.

The news followed Kingston Council leader Kevin Davis announcing his opposition to the building, on the grounds of design quality, finishes and materials.

Last week a spokesman from St George said: "We asked the council to remove the planning application for the old post office site from the development control committee agenda on June 23 while we consider our position."

The spokesman was not able to confirm what new plans for the site would or would not include.

But Mrs Boran said: "We know they will be back. We are worried about having two towers."

Last month a series of public consultation exhibitions were put on to engage with residents and raise awareness about plans for Eden Walk.

Artist's impression: Plans for Eden Walk shopping centre

The Eden Walk Shopping Centre was built in the 1960s and has been deemed "tired, outdated and poorly connected" by the Eden Walk General Partnership.

The proposals include a dining terrace as well as a "sky restaurant", a boutique cinema, offices, new pedestrian routes, better access to and relandscaping of Memorial Gardens, plus new retail units.

But north Kingston resident Andree Freize said: "CNM Estates is planning a boutique cinema in the Gala Bingo site. Don't these planners have any imagination?"

A spokesman for British Land and USS said: "Our £400m investment will create hundreds of jobs, new shops, restaurants, offices, public space and homes in a safe, family friendly environment.

"We are really pleased that over 1,000 people attended our consultation events.

"We are now reviewing the feedback before developing our plans further."

NEW SUITE: A new, informal interview suite has opened at Kingston police station for victims of crime. The new Achieving Best Evidence interview suite includes softer furnishings and new recording equipment. It is one of nine such suites across London.

FIRST TIME: Kingston and Surbiton MP James Berry used his maiden speech in Parliament to flag up the borough's growing school place shortage. Mr Berry also spoke about congested trains and the problems getting on the property ladder as other key issues in Kingston. Mr Berry said: "There is much to be done, and I will never shy away from that task."

MOVING UP: A former reporter who worked for the Sun and our sister paper the Surrey Comet has launched a business hoping to train journalists that want to break into national newspapers. Simon Carroll and his business partner Matthew Clark have set up Exclusive Skills to help reporters get ahead in the industry. The first workshop takes place in London on Thursday, July 23. Visit **exclusiveskills.co.uk**.

BIG DAY: Roll up, roll up, for stalls, games, live music and more at the King's Centre in Chessington. Chessington Evangelical Church's Big Day Out offers activities for people of all ages – including a giant inflatable slide. The free event will run from 2pm to 6pm on Saturday, July 11. Car parking is not available. For more information call 020 8391 5522.

DRIVERS WANTED: The Chessington and Hook voluntary care scheme needs drivers to help transport people to appointments and on outings. Contact David Rowbotham on 020 8397 6298 for more.

Meet the Buyer Event

Could you be a supplier for the construction of Viridor's Beddington ERF?

28th July 2015 - 11am

Viridor will soon start construction works to build an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) at its site in Beddington Farmlands, Sutton.

The facility will be built by CNIM and Lagan on behalf of Viridor.

A 'Meet the Buyer' event is being held on 28 July at 11.00am, where representatives from Viridor and partner organisations will outline the plans for building the ERF plant and provide opportunities for local suppliers to engage with the procurement teams.

Business representatives wishing to attend the event must register by emailing no later than 5pm on Monday 20th July to **meetthebuyer@laganconstruction.com**. To find out more information about the project visit **www.viridor.co.uk/beddington-erf.**

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Letters may be edited for space, clarity and legal reasons.

ONLINE OPINION

Comment on stories at **kingstonguardian.co.uk**

Cap in Hand pub to close

Terrible news. One of the best Wetherspoon's around. Very clean. Good staff. Good service. Really nice local ales and great steak day on Tuesday.

CHESSINGTON MAN

All star cast announced for Rose's Wars of the Roses

This looks likely to be a stirring trilogy for all the family – a real don't miss. Show your support for our Rose. Book early and enjoy the plays.

CONCERNED OF KINGSTON

Car 'swerves into lamppost'

This stretch of road [in Berrylands] is busy with kids coming from Surbiton Children's Centre nursery and Christchurch primary school. It is lucky this didn't happen a few minutes later – the car could easily have mounted the pavement, hitting pedestrians.

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- **A full explanation of your complaint by reference to the Editors' Code.**

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If complaining about third party comments on our website articles, you should use the "report this post" function online next to the comment.

Council needs to be open over its assets

It was reported that the chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance was telling Kingston Council to rethink its property portfolio, which includes three golf courses and two cafes.

While Mr Isaby is right to say councils should ensure they get full value from their assets, he should not assume that all taxpayers or, indeed, community charge payers, would agree with him that this means sales.

Kingston owns the freehold of three golf courses – neither Coombe Hill nor Malden make any mention of this on their web pages.

Coombe Wood is more transparent, telling us that they have a lease for which they paid £575,000 until 2119, at a ground rent (inflated by RPI every five years) set at £500 per annum in 1993.

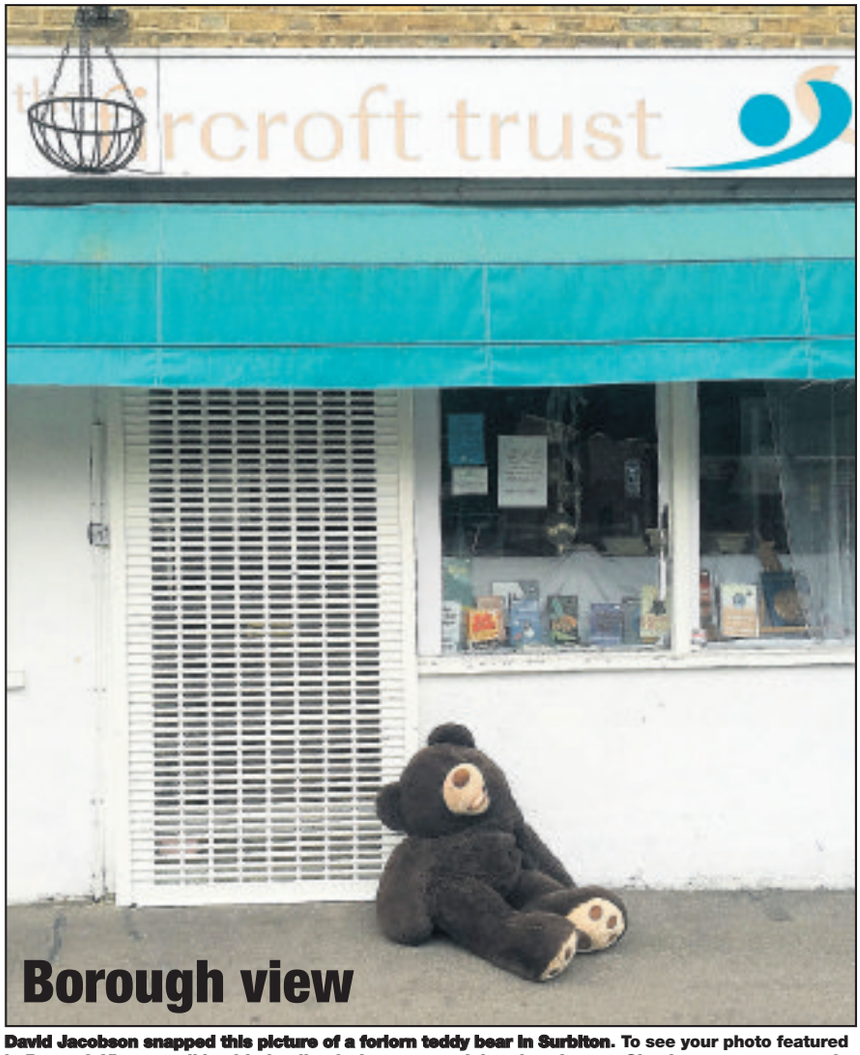
Their history also tells us Coombe Hill paid £1.2m, but no dates or ground rent details are given.

The Kingston Guardian could usefully shine some light on all the arrangements.

The two cafes listed – the Clocktower and the Riverside – are probably minor by comparison to the golf clubs, but the Riverside was a largely unused building that now provides a great amenity, and the same is true of the Clocktower, which was formerly a closed lavatory.

Councillor Humphrey's comments were very sensible, but it would be good if the council could now be more transparent about all these arrangements, especially the golf clubs, at least one of which is clearly very high end and hardly what might be thought of as a community facility for all the people of Kingston.

PETER WILLIAMS
Surbiton



Borough view

David Jacobson snapped this picture of a forlorn teddy bear in Surbiton. To see your photo featured in Borough View, email it with details of where you took it to jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk.

Lib Dems should own up to own failings

Before the defeated Liberal Democrat councillor and lead member for schools makes cheap political swipes at the current Conservative administration over delays to the new north Kingston secondary school he should own up to his own failure to deliver for Kingston students.

For years, the Lib Dem council refused to accept there was even a need for additional schools.

If there were problems with the Education Funding Agency, why did the then-Councillor Ryder-Mills not use his influence with the then-local MP, Edward Davey, to have his fellow Lib Dem, David Laws, the Schools Minister, sort the log jam?

The current council administration is not wedded to free schools, but recognises that Government policy (endorsed by Lib Dems in coalition) provides for this to be the means for funding new schools.

PAT HICKMAN
Via email

Daily attacks on opponents are so boring

Can I make an appeal to the major political parties that are bombarding us with election leaflets in Grove ward?

If you are going to stick something through the door, please can you include some levity.

Try a few jokes perhaps, or try making some of your points with humour.

Failing that, what about including some useful phone numbers or some adverts for local businesses?

Anything but the relentless daily attacks on your political opponents. It is getting so boring now.

As long as you do not allow developers to build a 22-storey monstrosity in front of our house, I will be happy.

NICK BOOTH
Kingston

Refunds for train delays unclaimed

I have uncovered figures that indicate an estimated 25,872,000 delayed journeys take place annually on the commuter lines into London, with 85 per cent of refunds remaining uncollected.

This figure amounts to in excess of £56m a year.

At present, commuters using the overland trains into London are facing unacceptable levels of delay as a common occurrence.

Because claiming back for delayed journeys is cumbersome, millions go unclaimed every year.

I am calling on the Mayor of London to see what he can do to encourage train companies to automate the process, as is the case with Oyster travel, making it easier for hard-pressed commuters to receive the compensation they are fully entitled to.

These shocking figures make a strong argument for the Mayor and Transport for London taking over the operation of the overland lines.

TONY ARBOUR
London Assembly member for Richmond, Kingston and Hounslow

TWEETS of the WEEK

@StPaulsLondon: This great, diverse, ingenious, tolerant and respectful city. This London. #WeStandTogether

@PhilR_R: Hearing names of the 7/7 victims shows what a diverse city we are. As they were united in death, we should respond by being united in life.

@ClaudeMoraesMEP: Feel like being in London today.

@ZacGoldsmith: #walktogether today to remember the 52 who died, the bravery of the emergency services, and London at its dignified, unified best.

Tall order: White Spider Climbing members scale walls to the equivalent height of Mount Everest

Children hit their peak

As charity fundraising efforts go, climbing Mount Everest must rank among the most daunting.

But at least these youngsters had pizza, cake and a raffle to keep them going.

Members at White Spider Climbing, based in Hook Rise South, used their climbing walls to collectively scale the height of the world's tallest peak and raised nearly £5,200 for victims of the Nepal earthquake.

The money will go to Community Action Nepal, founded by mountaineer Doug Scott.

Climber Chris Butcher, 11, said: "We had 14 squad members climbing five at a time, and rotating after 10 climbs each.

"No one wanted to be left on the ground when we reached the summit, so all the squad members climbed the last of the 885 climbs together."

Fears for school change

CHIEF REPORTER
NAZIA DEWJI
ndewji@
london.newsquest.co.uk

Parents at a Tolworth primary school fear their children's education is being compromised after plans to merge two year groups were announced.

Knollmead Primary School is set to merge two year 5 and 6 classes together leaving one year 5 class from September.

In a letter sent out to parents this week it said: "As you are aware there are lots of exciting new initiatives beginning next year and we have some new and enthusiastic teachers joining our staff.

"We have considered very carefully how to ensure that every pupil reaches their full potential and is challenged appropriately. We now have a model that we feel will benefit all pupils."

It added that classes would be much smaller than an average class of 30 and would be supported by teaching assistants.

The letter also said children would be grouped according to their ability in core subjects such as maths and English, "so that every child focuses on next steps relevant to them".

But one parent who did not want to be named said: "Which curriculum is it going to be? Year 6 is a really important year to prepare them for secondary school – how they are going to manage the curriculum and not repeat what the current year 5s have already done, I don't know.

"This is their big plan to save money. It seems to be all about funds and that is impacting children's education when it should not be."

She added no consultation over the changes had taken place with parents.

It has been a turbulent couple of years for Knollmead, which was rated inadequate by Ofsted inspectors in 2013.

The school was partnered with the Coombe Academy Trust, which also runs Coombe Boys' School and Coombe Girls' School, as a result of the inspection.

A new headteacher, Emma Kelty, was installed in September 2013, and she vowed to turn the school around.

But within a year it was announced Ms Kelty would not be returning to the school "for some time" and is currently understood to be travelling.

Acting headteacher Pip Utting said: "At Knollmead we prioritise the learning needs of all of our pupils to ensure they make excellent progress throughout key stages 1 and 2.

"We are very proud of the progress the school has made over the past year and are grateful to the staff for their role in this.

"It is not unusual for schools to introduce mixed age classes as part of a personalised learning experience and transition to secondary school is a key focus for us; one we can fully exploit with our close links to secondary schools."

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Extra Primark

Budget retailer Primark has applied for planning permission to demolish the former Quaker house in Kingston.

The shop in Eden Street is expected to expand next door to the Friends Meeting House formerly used by Quakers.

The Quakers moved to a new meeting house in Fairfield East last year.

Fundraising fun

A Kingston family has hosted a fun day to raise money for a children's charity.

Khalid Nazir and his family and friends put on the fundraiser with stalls, games and activities for Save the Children in Barnet last month.

Last year they put on a fun day in Kingston and raised more than £4,000 for the people of war-torn Syria.

Students set for skydiving

Two former Kingston University students are set to skydive for a spinal cord injury charity.

Journalism graduate Catarina Demony, 22, and computer science graduate Ben Diggle, 22, will be supporting the Back Up charity which offers a mentoring and rehabilitation service for people who are paralysed.

They will skydive in Reading on August 1.

To donate visit **justgiving.com/catarinademony**.

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PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION – 7 MAY 2015

CANDIDATES' RETURNS AS TO ELECTION EXPENSES

KINGSTON AND SURBITON CONSTITUENCY

I hereby give notice that at the date of this notice I have received returns and declarations as to election expenses for the following candidates and election agents:

CANDIDATE	AGENT
Michael James Ellwood Berry	Allrik Birch
Edward Jonathon Davey	Jonah Michael Oliver
Laurel Fogarty	David Maples
Daniel John Gill	Hannah Gill
Lee John Godfrey	Liz Meerabeau
Clare Siobhan Keogh	Lucy Howard
Benjamin John David Roberts	Roger Glencross

A copy of these returns and declarations (including any accompanying documents) is open to inspection during normal office hours until 12 June 2017 at the place below.

Andrew Bessant
Acting Returning Officer

9 July 2015

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OPEN EVENING

Thursday 9 July 2015 4.00pm – 8.30pm

The Head's speech will be at 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 6.30pm and 7.30pm

Please note there is an evening event in Nonsuch Park which is likely to add to congestion and restrict parking space available in the park. There will be limited parking on site and there are two public car parks in Cheam Village.

(Disabled visitors are asked to contact the School prior to the event)

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Nonsuch students go on to study at some of the country's top universities and later thrive in a range of careers. We are very proud of their achievements. Each year we welcome new girls to Year 7. Our intake has recently grown to 210, spread over seven tutor groups.

The benefits of a grammar school education should, we believe, be open to all and so we have up to ten places guaranteed for able students who have triggered the Pupil Premium in their current Primary School.

We also firmly believe that schools should serve their local community and so fifteen of our places are reserved for residents of the London Borough of Sutton.

If you are interested in securing a place at Nonsuch for your daughter, then we invite you to join us at our Open Evening where you will be able to meet staff and pupils and find out about our entrance test and the application process. It is on Thursday, July 9, 4pm to 8.30pm.

In the meantime, read more about the school at www.nonsuchschool.org

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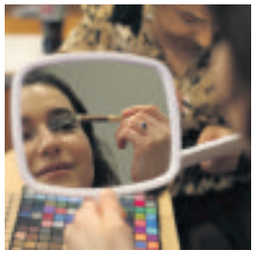

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Calling all landlords

Small changes can bring rental properties in line with new fire safety laws to save lives

You are four times more likely to die in a home fire if there is no smoke alarm fitted

LANDLORDS across England are being urged to act now to ensure they are ready for new safety laws aimed at saving dozens of lives a year.

The new regulations will make it compulsory for all landlords to fit smoke alarms in rented homes. Under the new laws smoke alarms must be fitted on every floor of the property as well as carbon monoxide alarms in properties which burn solid fuels. Landlords must also check the alarms are working at the start of every new tenancy with potential penalties of up to £5,000 if they don't comply.

The Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA) campaigned for more than two years for the legislation to be introduced. Working closely with landlords and the main landlord associations and groups it presented key evidence and research into the Government's national review of the issue.

Mark Cashin, chair of CFOA's Home Safety Committee, says: "We are delighted that the Government has worked with us to bring in these new laws which will improve the safety of families and stop dozens of people from losing their lives to fire each year.

"While overall smoke alarm ownership in the country stands at around 90 per cent, those living in private rented homes are far less likely to have a working smoke alarm. Statistically people are four times more likely to die in a fire in the home if there is no working smoke alarm and over the next ten years it is estimated that the new laws will result in 231 fewer deaths and 5,860 less injuries."

The new regulations do not apply to social landlords and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) as these are both covered by other existing laws.

From this autumn fire alarms must be fitted on every floor of a rental home

To help landlords gear up for the new regulations, which subject to parliamentary approval are expected to come into force this October, the Government has provided local fire and rescue services with a limited number of free smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to distribute ahead of the regulations coming into force.

Landlords should contact their local fire and rescue service to obtain the alarms and receive guidance on where and how to fit them.

■ **Details: www.alarms4life.com**

SMOKE ALARMS IN RENTED PROPERTIES

New laws coming soon

Landlords will be required to:

- **Fit at least one smoke alarm on each floor of their premises**
- **Fit a carbon monoxide alarm in rooms containing a solid fuel appliance**
- **Check that all alarms are working when a new tenancy starts.**

To help landlords prepare for the new laws the Government has provided 500,000 free alarms.

These are available from your local fire and rescue service. Visit **www.alarms4life.com** for more information or to find your local service.

Please don't wait – **act now** and request your free alarm. It could save someone's life.

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Vibe

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KOREAN CULTURE

Kingston will welcome Korea with a new festival celebrating the country's art and culture this month.

Kingston Welcomes Korea is a "party with a purpose" combining an arts festival and trade fair across the town.

Events will include Seoul-based dance and comedy teams, Anglo-Korean concerts and exhibitions from the new generation of Korean artists at Kingston College's Creative Industries Centre and Kingston Museum.

● **Kingston Welcomes Korea; various locations; July 29 to August 8; rosetheatrekingston.org.**

PADDLE BOARD POWER

With some of the most stunning riverside scenery in London, Kingston is an ideal location to try the world's fastest growing water sport – stand-up paddle boarding.

Fast to learn and easy to do, it involves standing on a specially designed board and propelling yourself forward with an oar.

Paddling has built up a strong following in Kingston, thanks to the borough being home to the only accredited stand up paddling school in south-east England.

This Saturday, Kingston paddling school Blue Chip is offering a free taster session to anyone who wants to stick their oar in.

Paddlers can either race each other through set out courses or just paddle for fun.

The class is being taught by Brian Johncey who set up Blue Chip in 1980.

● **Have a go at Stand Up Paddle Boarding; Thames Sailing Club, next to Harts Boatyard, Portsmouth Road; Saturday, July 11, 10.30am to 3pm; free; bluechipsupschool.co.uk.**

SUMMERIsland

SUMMER ON RAVENS AIT

● **Portsmouth Road, Surbiton, opposite the Queens promenade; July 3 to August 31, various times; visit theoutdoorcinema.co.uk for cinema tickets and ravensait.co.uk for more information**

It has become something of an enigmatic symbol of Kingston, a place everyone sees, but not everyone gets to go to.

But perhaps no more – for this summer people will have the opportunity to visit the iconic Ravens Ait island during a range of special events.

The tiny island in the Surbiton stretch of the River Thames is opening up to the public over the coming months.

Over the years it has played host to Kingston rowing club, naval cadets, London Education Centre and a group of squatters who in 2009 occupied the island with the aim of turning it into an eco conference centre.

Now it is used mainly as a wedding venue with only a select few actually getting to see the bar and gardens.

Kick-starting the summer on the island will be a run of film screenings courtesy of the Outdoor Cinema club.

The club brings boutique film screenings to cities across the UK and Ravens Ait will see four classic movies over the summer.

Martin Scorsese's The Wolf of Wall Street will be the first screening, and feel-good family fun comes with 1970s classic Grease. Then Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey get up close in Dirty Dancing, the island's date night option.

There will also be a tribute to the late Robin Williams, with a special screening of Mrs Doubtfire where profits will be donated to the Campaign Against Living Miserably (Calm).

Each screening will be accompanied by street food and sweet and salted popcorn treats.

There will be other opportunities to get on the island too outside of the film festival.

During July and August Ravens Ait will be hosting a pop-up bar and grill where barbecue food and drinks from around the world will be on offer.

Beer lovers will also be able to climb onboard Ravens Ait's first ale festival.

The festival will give visitors the chance to enjoy craft beers and real ales alongside a barbecue, live music and lots of family entertainment with competitions and prizes.

Vibe SHORTS

ON THE BEACH: Limbo in your best swimwear at Kingsmeadow's annual beach party. Guests can enjoy the swimsuit and limbo competition with a glass of free beach party punch all soundtracked by DJ Carl Pike who will be playing summer tunes.

● **Beach Party; Kingsmeadow Stadium; Saturday, July 18, 8pm to 1am; free before 8pm, £7 non-members, £5 members after; kingsmeadowfunctions.com**

NEW MUSIC: Young Kingston musicians will get a chance to showcase their talents in the town's new cereal bar. There will be all styles of music which you can enjoy over a bowl of your favourite cereal, as part of the International Youth Arts Festival.

● **Tuesday UnWrapped Open Mic Series; Cereal Bar, Fife Road, Kingston; Tuesday, July 14, 6pm; free; kingstonfirst.co.uk.**

GO GOTHIC: Directors at the Cornerhouse are looking for fresh blood to audition for their Halloween production of Bram Stoker's Dracula. Open auditions for the play based on the classic Gothic horror novel take place with director Colin Goodger.

● **Dracula auditions; the Cornerhouse, 116 Douglas Road, Surbiton; Sunday, July 19, 2pm and Tuesday, July 21, 7pm; free; email colingoodger@yahoo.com.**

FOR MORE ON THESE AND OTHER STORIES VISIT kingstonguardian.co.uk/vibe

'A LOAD OF NONSENSE'

Comedian, actor and 2004's I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here winner Joe Pasquale is preparing to launch his latest tour, *writes Nathalie Farrugia*.

Since 2013, Pasquale has been performing in theatres across the country as King Arthur in Spamalot but, after two years on the production, returns to stand-up, with the Joe Pasquale Summer Tour 2015.

He says the show is "all just nonsense, but that's what people expect from me", and warns people that "if you're coming to my show for something serious, forget it."

Pasquale says audiences can expect a lot of "bantering", audience participation and props.

He says: "I've bought a water pistol, a psychic premonition box, and a plastic baked potato. No show is complete without a plastic baked potato.

"I've also bought half a hundred weight of marshmallows to throw into the audience. I'm going to play basketball with them and whoever wins gets to come on stage and do magic tricks."

Returning to stand-up after his two-year stint in the theatre, Pasquale explains that it is the fear he loves.

He says: "When I do stand-up, I like the feeling of flying by the seat of my pants.

"The great thing about stand-up is that it's different every night. You never know what will happen at any given show – and that's what I love about it.

"That's why I took up flying, parachute jumping, boxing and running. That fear is what stand-up is all about. You go out there without a net. Nothing is guaranteed. Just because last night went well, you can't expect tonight to be great, too."

The tour, which runs throughout July and August across the country, also features special guest Paul Burling, an impressionist and Britain's Got Talent finalist.

> When I do stand-up, I like the feeling of flying by the seat of my pants

The Vibe interview

JOE PASQUALE

● **Ashcroft Theatre, Fairfield Halls, Park Lane, Croydon; July 26, 7.30pm; £18.50; www.fairfield.co.uk**

AleSale

Try more than 40 ales, ciders, perrys and craft beers at the inaugural AFC Wimbledon beer festival this weekend.

The Ale FC Wimbledon event opens at 5pm tomorrow, July 10, and runs until Sunday, July 12.

In partnership with the Wimbledon Brewery, visitors can try out tipples from regional brewers in the area.

Derek Prentice, master brewer of the Wimbledon Brewery, will be a special guest speaker and hold a Q&A session on Friday.

That is followed with the showpiece event of the festival – a friendly match between the Dons and Watford, newly promoted to the Premier League.

The weekend concludes with a screening of the final day of the first Ashes test, live from Cardiff.

Hot food will be served throughout the festival.

Entry is free, however beer festival tickets are available for £17 and include limited edition Ale FC Wimbledon pint glass, a pint token, plus nine 1/3 pint taster tokens.

● **Ale FC Wimbledon Beer Festival; Kingsmeadow, Jack Goodchild Way, Kingston; July 10-12; free (or £17 for advanced tickets and festival package); for more information, visit afcwimbledon.co.uk.**

Vibe WHAT'S ON

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Demand for rents on rise

Rents are starting to see some real upward movement in 2015 after five or six years of low growth, **write Kate Faulkner**.

This is being driven partly by demand being higher than supply, but mostly because wages are rising above inflation.

From a landlord perspective, this is really good news as rents haven't been rising that fast and this will help fund maintenance.

The Homelet index continues to show that newly advertised rental inflation is higher than rental growth to existing tenants. Supply and demand definitely influences rents and at a regional level, where there is plenty of rental stock, such as in Wales, the North West and parts of East of England, rents aren't rising, while London and the South West are seeing rises. They are not though the 'raw deal' suggested by the National Housing Federation.

Their recent comparison compares an individual landlord who has to pay high prices with corporate landlords who build from scratch, so it is very much apples versus pears. In comparison, rents in the social sector have risen twice as fast as private rents in the UK, and rents are around a third of wages, just like they are in the UK according to most affordability reports.

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Safety first with ONSTAR

Vauxhall is bringing OnStar, its in-car telematics system, to the UK this summer, which includes a high-speed 4G mobile network, emergency response notification and stolen vehicle recovery technology.

The system will be free for customers for the first year, and will be available in selected models in Vauxhall's passenger car range from August.

Debuting at the 2015 Frankfurt Motor Show in September, the first all-new Vauxhall to get OnStar will be the Brit-built Astra, which arrives in UK showrooms in October.

Based in Luton, OnStar's European headquarters is set to open for business this summer. Globally, OnStar already serves around seven million customers in the United States, Canada, China and Mexico. As well as the UK, OnStar will be available in 13 other markets across Europe.

Commenting on the programme rollout, Tim Tozer, Vauxhall's chairman and managing director, said: "With OnStar, Vauxhall is bringing the latest connectivity technology to a wider audience. OnStar will make driving safer as well as offering new innovations in infotainment and telematics. And best of all, the system will be free to customers for the first year of ownership."

If an airbag deploys, OnStar will be alerted automatically and an advisor will then contact the vehicle to determine whether help is required. If there is no response, emergency services are requested.

Available 24/7 and 365 days a year, OnStar advisors are located at the OnStar service centre in Luton.

At a push of an SOS button, OnStar users can request assistance whenever they deem it necessary, for example, if they witness an accident. The new system also includes a roadside -assistance service to cover breakdowns.

OnStar will be able to assist vehicle owners and police if a vehicle with the system is stolen.

Remote ignition block will allow OnStar to send a remote signal to the vehicle that blocks the engine from starting once it's been reported stolen.

And, in a bid to make fault diagnosis easier, OnStar can provide subscribers with a monthly vehicle diagnostics email.

A check can be requested at any time at the push of a button, providing peace of mind before setting off on a longer journey, for example.

STAR IN A CAR Andy Priaulx

Andy Priaulx drives a BMW 125i M Sport in the British Touring Car Championship for Team IHG Rewards Club.

A triple world motorsport champion who also competes in GT racing, Andy is also the founder of the Priaulx Premature Baby Foundation.

For more on Andy visit andypriaulx.com or follow him on Twitter @andypriaulx

For details on the Priaulx Premature Baby Foundation visit ppbf.org.gg

What was your first car? I learnt to drive in an old Fiat 500. It didn't take long to work out how to slide it around!

How many times did it take to pass your test? I passed first time. My father taught me in anything from the forecourt that had fuel in it as he ran a car sales showroom.

Who would be your ideal fantasy passenger and where would you go? Not so much a fantasy, but I love travelling with my family. We did a road trip across the USA last year between races in the RV and it was a very special time.

What is your dream car? I like classics, like the Ferrari 355 and original 911s. There is just too much choice to make one selection, but I really like the BMW i8 and the new M3/4 – that's a great track car.

How would you describe your driving style? I've been told all sorts as you would imagine, but I would like to think I am smooth and technical in my racecraft.

Tell me one driving anecdote from your past? We went to Mexico for the World Touring Car Championship and were hijacked by thieves posing as policemen and taken at gunpoint to a side road and relieved of all our cash. It was scary at the time, but we laugh about it now.

What are you listening to? It's a sing-along for me so anything my daughter usually insists upon. I do also have special tracks for meditation and race preparation.

What do you drive now? At home in Guernsey I drive a BMW i3.

Questions: Matt Westcott

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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 21.7 (13.0) to 72.4 (3.9), Extra Urban 40.4 (7.0) to 91.1 (3.1), Combined 30.4 (9.3) to 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions for the ŠKODA range are 217 to 88g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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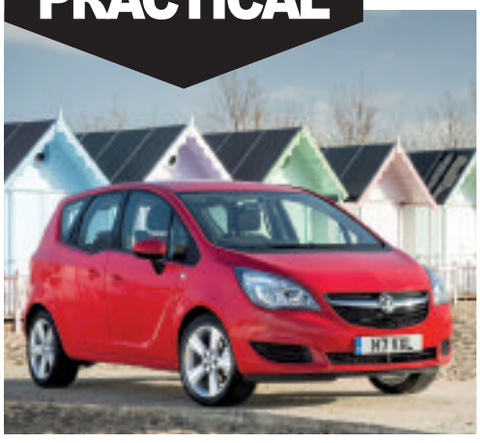

Local retailer, Now Vauxhall with sites in across North and West London is inviting drivers in the region to love 'Life', thanks to the Meriva Life 1.4 100PS variant to the Meriva range.

In stock now, the **Meriva Life** offers great equipment such as Bluetooth, cruise control, 16-inch alloy wheels, air-con, electric windows and mirrors and MP3 player connectivity, all at a competitive starting price of **just £8,999** for a 15 plate with delivery mileage in Flame Red.

Ideal for families, the Meriva is unrivalled in terms of convenience, flexibility and all-round comfort. It is designed with everyday practicalities in mind. Space and flexibility combine with a stylish design and sophisticated technology features. This practicality has been made possible by a clever door arrangement: the rear doors are hinged, meaning they open backwards providing excellent access to the back seats and easy to install a child seat or for less mobile passengers to climb aboard.

Jon Taylor, Managing Director at Now Vauxhall, comments: "On top of a five-star safety rating, efficiency, infotainment and connectivity, the Meriva is a highly adaptable car to suit a busy family life. We'd like to invite all those who are considering a new family car to visit Now Vauxhall and learn more about how the Meriva could meet their needs."

An equally family-friendly clever seating arrangement, called FlexSpace, allows the rear seats to slide and fold independently, increasing space for passengers or luggage as required. With its amazing all-round vision the Meriva is ideal for driving around town. The Meriva Life offers a combination of superb technology and connectivity, with features including Bluetooth, a CD/MP3 player operated by steering wheel mounted audio controls and a USB connection plus Aux-in socket.

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Model featured Meriva Life 1.4i 5dr from £12,995 on the road. Offer price £8,999. Offer available on orders from 8 April to 31 July 2015, subject to availability. Offer available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only, excluding B2B). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. UK-supplied vehicles only. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.

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Kingston's Parsons left twiddling thumbs

Kingston boxer Danny Parsons saw his long awaited professional debut at York Hall cancelled on Saturday, *writes Stuart Amos*.

The 21-year-old former Queensbury Boxing League star had been scheduled to fight a four round super featherweight bout at the historic venue, but did not feature on the 14-fight bill.

Parsons, *right*, has been waiting since March 2014 to appear at York Hall after cutting ties with the Queensbury League to team up with manager Steve Goodwin.

More sport: kingstonguardian.co.uk

Top 10: Kingston's Chris Dack banked a top 10 finish at the British Championships on Sunday

Kingston in pole position

Kingston & Polytechnic Harriers retained Southern Athletics League Division Three South West top spot in match-winning fashion on Saturday, *writes Stuart Amos*.

The Kingsmeadow club clocked up 300 points to comfortably win their match on home soil, finishing a whopping 92 points ahead of nearest rivals Horsham Blue Star Harriers.

Kingston are clear of the chasing pack ahead of the final match of the summer at Kingsmeadow on August 14 when Hastings, North Devon, Bracknell and Hercules Wimbledon are the visitors.

Kingston's Chris Dack threw a disappointing 15.13 metres to finish 10th at the British Championships in Birmingham on Sunday.

Dack's personal best is 15.87m

ELEVENTH HEAVEN: Kingston enjoy best showing in a decade

Cyclists make difference

SPORTS EDITOR
STUART AMOS
samos@
london.newsquest.co.uk

Kingston's best placing at the London Youth Games for 10 years was four years in the making.

The borough's young sports stars collected 10 gold, 11 silver and six bronze medals to claim 11th in the overall Jubilee Trophy standings on Sunday after finals weekend at Crystal Palace.

Team Kingston collected 988 points to finish only two points above 12th placed Redbridge, but a whopping 228 adrift of champions Wandsworth, who claimed the title for a third successive year.

Liz Joannides (100m and shot Para Games) and Souleyman Bah (100m & 200m Para Games) led the way with four individual golds between them.

There were further individual title triumphs for Harry Prosser (Judo), Magnus Handley (Sailing), Coco Barrett (Sailing) and Duncan Cassley-Sharon (200m Para Games), to add to boys Para Football and 50m backstroke relay golds.

But it was the newly formed cycling squad that made the difference with Tobias Dahihaus taking boys' road race and ITT silver and Kate Shelton stealing girls' road race bronze as Kingston claimed a team bronze in the event for the first time.

The Kingston Junior Cycle Club, based at the YMCA Hawker Centre, was set up in 2011 thanks to funding from London Youth Games sponsor Balfour Beatty, Kingston Council and the Kingston School Sports Partnership.

And cycling team manager Liz Foster believes the club can only go from strength to strength.

"I'm a bit surprised," she said.

"In 2011 we started Kingston Junior Cycling Club because of a grant from Balfour Beatty and it's nice to see the fruition of what is a small grass-track racing club.

"It was a big step up to win bronze.

"Some of our team have another two years left in the age group, so there's more to come."

Eight months of competition between more than 100,000 athletes representing 33 boroughs in 31 sports, reached its climax at Crystal Palace.

British women's 100m record holder Dina Asher-Smith and rugby World Cup winner Maggie Alphonsi were on hand to light the flame at last Thursday's opening ceremony.

And Alphonsi believes the event is a breeding ground for future world and Olympic stars.

"The London Youth Games is an amazing event, I am so happy to have been here and to be a patron of the Games," she said.

"I took part in 1999 and it's really inspiring to see the next generation who are coming through, some of which will be hoping to represent their country at an Olympic Games and world championships."

Carrying the torch: Dina Asher-Smith and Maggie Alphonsi, top, light the London Youth Games flame and Liz Foster, above second from left, with her bronze medal winning cycling team,

SPORTS*brief*

GOING DOWN: Old Emanuel seem destined for the Surrey Championship Division Four drop after a humiliating 10-wicket defeat at Cobham Avorians. Old Es – bottom of the table – were dismissed for just 69 runs by their title-chasing hosts with Mohsin Bashir (3-36) doing most of the damage. Mahesh Liyanage's unbeaten 60 from 44 balls saw Cobham home.

GOOD START: Chessington & Hook United started their Combined Counties League Premier Division preparations with a 3-0 home win over Epsom Athletic on Saturday. Boss Darren Woods' men will face Crowborough Athletic at home in the FA Cup extra preliminary round on August 15 and travel to Corinthian on September 5 in the FA Vase first qualifying round.

TROPHY TRIP: Kingstonian will start their FA Trophy campaign in the first qualifying round at Leatherhead on October 31. Boss Tommy Williams' men head to Whyteleafe on Saturday for their opening pre-season training match of the summer, before hosting a Chelsea XI on July 13.

AWARDS: Kingston Rugby Club's Kevin Walters has been shortlisted for a Lawson Keys National Rugby Award for his considerable contribution to a club for whom he played for 13 years. Walters will discover if he has won at an awards dinner at Twickenham stadium on September 2.

PARKRUN: Team GB Olympic triathlon hopeful Emma Pallant was the first woman home in Saturday's Bushy Park parkrun. Pallant clocked 16 minutes 52 seconds to finish fourth behind winner Andrius Jaksevicius (16:15).

Sibley shows quality

Surrey director of cricket Alec Stewart will have had mixed emotions at the weekend, *writes Steven Morgan*.

Young Surrey all-rounder Dominic Sibley showed his class as Stewart's former club Malden Wanderers went down to Surrey Championship Division One leaders Ashtead on Saturday at Cambridge Avenue.

The 19-year-old, who has featured in the Surrey first team this term, followed figures of 5-59 with a composed 76 not out to steer the visitors to a five-wicket win.

Will Sabey's 61 was the mainstay of the home side's 210 all out, but the fragility of the middle order was again evident as the Stags lost four wickets for four runs to slip from a handily placed post-lunch 150 for 4 to 154 for 8.

Though there was late-order resistance from Will Riley (22) and Rafeh Jafri (19), it was a case of what might have been.

In reply, Ashtead openers Tom Laudy and Michael Sanderson added 51 to provide a solid platform. However, Sanderson's dismissal, bowled by Giles Puckle for 54 with the score at 102, gave Wanderers a sniff.

When Ashtead were reduced to 149 for five, the game looked evenly poised.

Sibley, however, had other ideas and with the help of Matthew Friedlander (25 not out) steered the visitors home without further loss.

Skipper James Wackett was philosophical in defeat, knowing Sibley's quality had turned the game Ashtead's way.

Class act: Ashtead's Dominic Sibley, above, was his side's hero with bat and ball on Saturday, and, right, Tom Laudy takes a walk after being dismissed by rising Surrey 16-year-old Rafeh Jafri Pictures: SP62269

"He batted and bowled beautifully and made the difference between the two teams," he said.

"Next week's match against East Molesey will be another good test of how far we have developed as a team this year."

Last man Richard Singleton smashed eight runs in two balls to give Chessington a winning draw at Worcester Park in Division Two.

Singleton, who had earlier claimed figures of 3-30 with the ball, had come to the crease with two balls to go with his side needing six runs to pass 190 after his side had struggled to chase Park's 226 for nine.

Chessington are third in the table.

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